

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of providing lighting for a medical environment, comprising:  
5 providing a medical tool having a non-lighting function;  
integrating a light source into the tool; and  
controlling the light output of the light source to light a work area.
2. A method of claim 1, wherein the light source is a semiconductor-based  
10 light source.
3. A method of claim 2, wherein the control facility includes a processor.
4. A method of claim 2, wherein the tool comprises a cutting tool.  
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5. A method of claim 2, wherein the tool comprises a grasping tool.
6. A method of claim 2, wherein the tool comprises a retracting tool.
- 20 7. A method of claim 2, wherein the tool comprises a suction tool.
8. A method of claim 2, wherein the tool comprises a cauterizing tool.
9. A system for lighting for a medical environment, comprising:  
25 a medical tool having a non-lighting function;  
a light source integrated into the tool; and  
a control facility for controlling the light output of the light source to light  
a work area.
- 30 10. A system of claim 9, wherein the light source is a semiconductor-based  
light source.

11. A system of claim 10, wherein the control facility includes a processor.
12. A system of claim 11, wherein the tool comprises a cutting tool.
- 5 13. A system of claim 10, wherein the tool comprises a grasping tool.
14. A system of claim 10, wherein the tool comprises a retracting tool.
- 10 15. A system of claim 10, wherein the tool comprises a suction tool.
16. A system of claim 10, wherein the tool comprises a cauterizing tool.
17. A method of providing a lighting system for a surgical operating  
15 environment, comprising:  
    providing a lighting system having a plurality of light sources capable of  
    producing light of variable output characteristics;  
    providing a control facility for the lighting system; and  
    providing a user interface to the control facility.
- 20 18. A method of claim 17, wherein the user interface comprises a voice  
recognition interface.
19. A lighting system for a surgical operating environment, comprising:  
25 a lighting system having a plurality of light sources capable of producing light of  
variable output characteristics;  
    a control facility for the lighting system; and  
    a user interface to the control facility.

20. A system of claim 19, wherein the user interface comprises a voice recognition interface.